



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the Bookbinding and Book Buying Committees and moved

That the Council endorse the Bookbinding Committee in its efforts to better the mate-

rials and workmanship employed by publishers in their editions.

The motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned.

ANNUAL REPORTS, 1921-1922

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Some of the outstanding features of the year ending May 20, 1922, are:

A constantly increasing membership,

The largest conference in the history of the Association,

A much enlarged distribution of A. L. A. publications,

Increased emphasis on the co-operative printing of reading lists and other material to promote reading and the use of books,

The beginning of a series of A. L. A. reading courses for use by libraries in promoting adult education,

Further development of the Employment Service,

The continuation of the recruiting-for-library-service campaign and the resultant interest aroused in library training,

An apparent increase in requests (in personal visits and by mail) for information on book selection, budgets, library publicity, library establishment and organization, the educational value of libraries, library training, traveling libraries, county libraries, school libraries, library buildings, etc.,

The assembling and preparation of typical publicity material comprising not only articles, but pictures, slides and exhibits; also scrapbooks, showing actual financial, book and library establishment campaigns, and

The establishment of closer relations with other organizations and agencies which are in a position to help in the promotion of library interest and in the extension and development of libraries.

Membership. Our records show 5735 on May 20, a gain of 12% since May 1, 1921. Thousands of personal and form letters, printed leaflets and circulars, and member-

ship application blanks have been distributed to the library profession to encourage membership in the A. L. A. The Membership Committee, the officers of the Association and the Headquarters staff have worked together in this campaign for new members, and other members of the Association have extended numerous personal invitations to join.

The U. S. Census Bulletin on *Occupations*, according to the 1920 census, indicates that there were 15,297 librarians in the United States in 1920 as compared with 7,423 in 1910. The membership of the A. L. A. in 1920 was 4,464 as compared with 2,005 in 1910.

The geographical distribution of the A. L. A. membership, as listed in the 1921 *Handbook*, is as follows:

North Atlantic division.....	2026
North Central division.....	1975
South Atlantic division.....	348
South Central division.....	255
Western division	560
All other	143

Total, 1921 5307

A beginning has been made in the recruiting of sustaining and contributing members in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution and By-Laws.

Employment Service. More and more libraries are turning to the A. L. A. Employment Service for recommendations. Requests during the year have covered nearly every conceivable kind of position, with salaries ranging up to four or five thousand dollars; and almost limitless geographical distribution—not by any means comprised within the boundaries of the United States. The heavi-

est demand is for library school graduates, but registrants who have had apprentice training or satisfactory library experience are being placed also. There have been many inquiries for part time positions which would allow opportunity for some college or library school work, and these have received special attention.

Recruiting for Librarianship. John Cotton Dana's interview in the *New York Evening Post* on *Library work for young men* has been reprinted by the A. L. A. for distribution. A little statement by Christopher Morley is in the printer's hands as this report is being prepared. It will be entitled *The child and the book*. Requests for the recruiting placard, for *Library work an opportunity for college women*, reprinted last year, and for *Books and a vocation* have continued. Through the courtesy of the H. W. Wilson Co., 1,000 reprints of M. E. Hazeltine's *Recruiting for librarianship* have been added to the material available at Headquarters. A limited number of reprints were made from *Public Libraries* of F. K. W. Drury's *The library as a detective agency*. Several thousand copies of these pamphlets and leaflets suggesting the profession of librarianship have been placed in the hands of young men and women as the result of the work of the Recruiting Committee, the Headquarters office and co-operating librarians. Some requests for these items in large quantities have necessitated putting prices on them for quantity distribution, although they are still distributed in small lots free of charge.

Suggested articles and editorials on librarianship have been sent to hundreds of periodicals and the clippings show that in some cases, at least, the material has been printed. One of the most important contributions was C. H. Compton's article written at our request and published in *The Open Road* May, 1922. A few copies are available for distribution.

Thousands of letters have been sent to vocational advisors, librarians and others.

The Committee on Recruiting, and the Headquarters office have continued to work together. Further details will be found in the report of the Recruiting Committee.

State Chapters. Seventeen state associations were affiliated with the American Li-

brary Association by Council action on December 29, 1921, on the new basis. Several other state associations and one local club have made application for affiliation since then, and their requests will presumably be acted upon at the Detroit meeting. When all of the state associations have become chapters of the A. L. A. a very considerable number of the Council members will be the state representatives.

The object of this affiliation is to strengthen and unify library organization throughout the country. The state or local association ought to gain influence by becoming a member of an international organization just as a local Rotary club is stronger because it is a part of International Rotary; and the A. L. A. itself gains strength by having state representatives on its Council and by having an official connection with practically everybody in the library profession. From time to time the A. L. A. goes on record for certain things. If its statements to congressmen on tariff, copyright and government documents, and its statements to the general public on library revenues can be made in the name not only of a membership of five or six thousand librarians, but also in some measure, at least, in the name of all the members of all of the state and local associations, the A. L. A. is much more likely to gain its point.

A. L. A. Representation at Meetings. The Association has been officially represented by officers, specially appointed delegates or members of the Headquarters staff at meetings of six national associations, five national or sectional conferences, eight meetings of state library associations; and members of the Headquarters staff have made twenty-five or thirty talks to library school students, members of library staffs and other groups. Exhibits have been made at some of the general meetings and conferences, and at most of the meetings formal or informal talks have been made by the A. L. A. representatives. Further details are given in the report of the Committee on Reciprocal Relations with Other National Organizations, and in the January *Bulletin*, page 27.

Library Establishment. The growing popular demand for the establishment of public libraries where they do not now exist

is clearly indicated in the requests for help which come from various towns and cities, especially in the states without active library commissions. Opportunities have come to the A. L. A. during the last year which have enabled it to be of service in promoting the library cause in some of the largest cities in the country which are still without library service. In such cases the Headquarters office frequently outlines in brief a whole campaign of publicity and propaganda to stimulate and organize the local interest. A few publications are sent, and our miscellaneous publicity material is offered, with the result that there is usually a continuing correspondence until definite action has been taken. Always, however, the things which might be done in such cases and which might help in the development of libraries for many thousands of people are limited by many routine things which must be done by the Headquarters office staff. It is largely because of this general library promotional work which is not the direct responsibility of individual members, that the Association welcomes the annual dues of sustaining and contributing members and gifts from various sources.

Not infrequently libraries, and library agencies turn to the A. L. A. Headquarters for comprehensive suggestions for reorganization and extension or submit reorganization and extension plans for criticism. During the last year a few libraries and library agencies in widely separated parts of the country have profited by this service. Others desiring similar help have failed to receive it because of the many demands on the Headquarters staff.

County libraries. The publicity for the county library movement and especially for that more spectacular phase of the county library movement—book wagons—has resulted in a continual flow of correspondence from small towns and country districts. People want to know how library service can be brought to them. In the great majority of cases the requests come from states and provinces in which there are active library extension agencies and from persons who, apparently, have somehow been missed by the traveling library system which would be able to meet their needs in some respects. In not a few cases, however, the requests come from states or provinces in which there are no

agencies equipped to meet the needs. Sometimes the state laws have not authorized the development of any such agencies. In those cases the Headquarters office endeavors to put the inquirer into touch with the other people in the state interested in developing the necessary library departments, and to encourage local efforts toward the establishment of a community library on a temporary basis. Such inquiries serve to keep in our minds the fact that there are still many people in North America who are wholly beyond or without the influence of libraries; and that there is no other national or international agency than the American Library Association to which they can turn for help.

School Libraries. The school library movement is getting into full swing. Teachers' associations are adopting library platforms. State laws and regulations are being made which require the maintenance of adequate libraries in schools and the teaching of the use of books and libraries as part of the curriculum. All this is reflected in the requests received at Headquarters for school library plans, outlines of organization, information on courses in the use of books and libraries, information as to library schools offering courses in school library work, qualifications for school librarians and recommendations for positions. The most frequently recurring request is for the outline of a plan which will enable the public library and the school to work together in meeting these growing and changing demands for an adequate library service for the school system in all its branches.

Library War Service. The American Library Association continues to provide for some of the ex-service men in hospitals. Occasional requests for books and magazines come from hospitals which are not yet being served through government channels. Subscriptions have been entered for this purpose to 275 magazines since January 1, 1922. The Association is also providing two regular employees for advisory service in connection with the hospital library work for the men in what were until recently Public Health Service hospitals (recently transferred to the Veterans' Bureau). Newly appointed hospital librarians and assistants are also usually paid for one or more months from A. L. A. funds

in order to avoid the delay which would result if forced to wait for government appointment. Some incidental expenses are paid by the A. L. A. as necessary. In this way the hospital library service is being transferred gradually to the government with the prospect of a complete transfer not many months off.

The A. L. A. continues to pay a small portion of the salary of the librarian of the American Library in Paris who is also the European representative of the American Library Association.

During the last few months the more important War Service printed reports, lists, bulletins and miscellaneous leaflets and posters, together with mimeographed material, photographs, slides, clippings, etc., have been assembled and prepared for binding or some other means of preservation for historical purposes. This material is at present stored in a vault at the Headquarters office in Chicago. Members who served on the War Service Committee and those who worked in camps, hospitals, dispatch offices or at Headquarters are urged to visit the A. L. A. Headquarters office and examine this material or to communicate with us if there is any possibility that additional items may be found to be added to this file.

Requests for information which have grown out of the war service work continue to come to the A. L. A. office from men who were in the service, secretaries of welfare organizations who came in touch with the A. L. A. during the war, and from men and women throughout the world who look to the A. L. A. for suggestions, and not infrequently (but usually in vain) for books.

More detailed statements will be found in the report of the Committee on the Transfer of Library War Service Activities, and in the statement of the librarian of the American Library in Paris, appended to this report of the Secretary.

Books for the Blind. The *Booklist of Revised Braille* issued two or three times a year for the Committee on Work with the Blind, records ten books done into braille this year through the instrumentality of the American Library Association. That there is a continuing and growing interest in this

work is evidenced by the Committee's report and the Headquarters correspondence.

Publications. It is estimated that 297,000 copies of publications issued by the American Library Association have been distributed during the year ended March 31, 1922. A large portion of this distribution has been of small reading lists compiled and published usually because of the timeliness of the subjects.

Reading *courses* are another important feature of the year's work. Two of the courses have been issued, one on *Journalism* by a Dean of a university school of journalism, and one on *Accounting* by a professor of that subject in a university school of commerce. The plan is to have a series of courses on vocational and other subjects which will represent the best possible advice on these subjects, prepared by men or women who are specialists in their fields, and checked up by librarians in order that they may be usable in all libraries. The number of books selected will be kept down to six or eight whenever that is feasible. The courses are to be prepared for the man or woman who wants to read several books to a definite end, not for the man or woman who wants to read simply one book. It is hoped that libraries will find these a useful means of putting into the hands of inquirers expert advice instead of the necessarily limited advice which must often be given out by assistants at the lending desk or even the reference desk. It is also hoped that libraries will find it possible to distribute these courses, perhaps by mail, to people who ought to be interested in reading on the subjects, and so may eventually be able to report to the public that hundreds, perhaps thousands of persons are pursuing definite courses of reading through the instrumentality of the libraries—which ought to help libraries to convince the public that they are helping in the movement for adult and universal education.

The *Graded list of books for children* is probably the most important item published during the year. It was compiled by a committee of school librarians and school teachers appointed by the Library Department of the National Education Association. Comprehensive indexes have been prepared by the editorial staff at A. L. A. Headquarters and

the book should be ready for distribution by the time of the A. L. A. conference.

The number of new publications issued during the year ended May 20, 1922, counting separately the individual numbers of periodical publications, is 50. Thirty of them were prepared wholly or in large part at Headquarters. Nine publications were reprinted, some of them thoroughly revised. Numerous printed circulars about these publications have been issued and distributed, many of them in large quantities.

New Publications, 1921-22

- A. L. A. Bulletin, six numbers.
- A. L. A. Manual of library economy, chap. 19, The catalog.
- A. L. A. Reading course on accounting.
- A. L. A. Reading course on journalism.
- Annual reports, 1920-21.
- The Booklist (11 numbers).
- Booklist books, 1921.
- Booklist of revised Braille, Vol. 1, Nos. 5 and 6.
- Books and pamphlets on library work (envelope insert).
- Books and pamphlets on library work (for Trade List Annual).
- Books and thrift.
- Books for vacation (now printing).
- Boys' books.
- Business books for profit and pleasure.
- The child and the book.
- Children's books for Christmas presents.
- Conference program.
- Conference attendance register.
- Graded list of books for children (now printing).
- Historical reading list for children.
- Home planning.
- Library work—an opportunity for college women.
- Library work for young men.
- Mid-winter conference program, 1921.
- Plays for children.
- Plays of today.
- Resolutions on public questions.
- Revised form for library statistics (for college and reference libraries).
- Technical books 1921, A selection.
- The United States.
- Useful books for the home.
- Viewpoints in essays.

Wanderlust book shelf (now printing).

What is a reasonable income for your library?

Posters and Exhibits, 1921-22

- After college what?
- Children's reading exhibit.
- County library exhibit.
- McCutcheon cartoon poster.
- McCutcheon bookmark.

Reprints and New Editions, 1921-22

- A. L. A. Manual of library economy, chap. 16, Book selection.
- Binding for libraries.
- Book wagons.
- Books and a vocation.
- A County library.
- Foreign people in the United States.
- Mending and repair of books.
- Revised form for library statistics (for public libraries).
- Why join the A. L. A.?

Forthcoming Publications

- A. L. A. Catalog, Supplement, 1912-21.
- Essentials in library administration (new edition).
- Guide to the study and use of reference books (new edition).
- The Hospital Library.

The Booklist. The following statement is submitted by May Masee, editor:

"*The Booklist* completes the seventeenth year of its existence more firmly established than ever as a necessary factor of the work of the American Library Association. This is shown by the gradual but steady increase of circulation, all of which is now on an individual and paid basis and by the steady increase in the number of contributing librarians and in the quality of their contributions.

"The influence of *The Booklist* on the trade is shown in the remark of a salesman, 'Well I doubled my order on that today when I told the buyer that it was a *Booklist* small library book.' Buyers recognize the fact that *Booklist* titles are those which people want. This must be true as they are chosen from the consensus of expert opinion which is constantly being tested and proved by actual contact with the reading public.

"The addition of a children's librarian to

the editorial staff of the Association strengthens this feature of *The Booklist* and enables the staff to give more assistance in the preparation of the special lists. More of such lists have been prepared and are being prepared by the editorial staff than at any time in the history of the Association. Inquiries about books are increasing in number and all of them are referred to *The Booklist* staff.

"The editor of *The Booklist* wishes to thank personally and officially all contributing librarians and all the headquarters staff whose work makes *The Booklist*."

Subscriptions in May 1920, May 1921, and May 1922, are shown in the following table:

	May 1920	May 1921	May 1922
Paid subscriptions..	4,116	4,305	5,000
Institutional members and affiliated asso- ciations	579	658	Dis- con- tinued
Free List	118	119	115
Total	4,813	5,082	5,115

Library members and affiliated state associations formerly received *The Booklist* as part of their membership perquisites. This meant about 650 copies distributed each month without charge. On January 1, 1922, in accordance with Executive Board action, there was a change in practice, and *The Booklist* is now issued on a regular subscription basis at \$2.00 per year. About 400 of the institutional members have become subscribers.

Publicity. Of the total distribution of A. L. A. publications in the year ended March 31, estimated at 297,000, more than half (about 170,000) have gone directly or indirectly to the public. Reading lists and reading courses by the thousands have been put into the hands of possible readers and buyers of books. In one city fifty thousand copies of an A. L. A. list were distributed in one day. In all of the A. L. A. publicity to libraries about the reading lists and other book publicity material the emphasis has been placed on distribution outside the library. Some of the reading lists, reading courses and other similar materials have been sent to hundreds of house organs, trade periodicals and other magazines as well as to press associa-

tions and newspapers; and in some cases the material and lists have been reprinted and thus made available to many thousands of persons, stimulating, we hope, the development and use of libraries and an increased distribution of books.

Library establishment. The pamphlets *How to start a library* and *Why do we need a public library* are used almost daily in answering questions on these subjects. Many copies are distributed free of charge each year to communities attempting to establish libraries without the aid of library commissions, and a great many more are distributed by the library commissions and other similar agencies.

County libraries. The pamphlets *A county library* and *Book wagons* continue to be popular with library commissions and are used frequently in answering questions from communities in states without commissions. A few thousand copies have been distributed to rural welfare workers, rural school officials, farm papers, club women and other persons and agencies interested in country life development. The *County library exhibit* through the 25 sets sold and through sets exhibited by the A. L. A. at other than library conferences has reached many thousands of persons, with the county library idea and with the suggestion that the people in the country want books.

Business libraries. *Workshops for assembling business facts*, by Dorsey W. Hyde, jr., president of the Special Libraries Association, was written at our request and has been distributed by both the A. L. A. and the S. L. A. to large numbers of people. Copies have gone from the A. L. A. office to the members of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, to commercial clubs, chambers of commerce, house organs, business and trade magazines. It has been used successfully in answering questions from business men about the establishment and development of libraries for their officers and employees.

School libraries. Several thousand copies of a little leaflet, entitled *Constructive aids in school library work*, were distributed to teachers, principals, superintendents and li-

brarians in grade schools, high schools and normal colleges. The purpose was: first, to create an interest in school libraries, or to stimulate that interest where it already existed; and second, to promote the sale of some of the A. L. A. publications which are of value to school libraries. During the year several hundred copies of the Certain pamphlet *Standard library organization and equipment for secondary schools* have been distributed to school officials. Plans have been made with the co-operation of the chairmen of the School Libraries Section of the A. L. A. and of the Library Department of the N. E. A. to conduct voting contests at the Detroit conference of the American Library Association and the Boston conference of the N. E. A. on the best 25 books for a "Two-foot shelf for a one-room country school." The purpose is to stimulate discussion of school libraries in rural districts, and the clippings which have come from different parts of the country as the result of the first announcement through the Associated Press indicates that the results will be gratifying.

Library support. Nothing issued by the American Library Association in many years has been so widely reprinted as the library revenue resolution, adopted by the A. L. A. Council in December, 1921, and reprinted by the A. L. A. as a broadside under the heading *What is a reasonable income for your library?* Several thousand copies have been sold to library commissions for distribution to trustees, public officials, newspapers and others, and some copies have been distributed by the Headquarters office. The use of this statement in the newspapers of the country and the comment given it in editorial columns lead us to believe it commanded general attention. Surely all this will help to create a public sentiment which will demand better support for libraries. Scrapbooks illustrating the financial campaigns in two or three cities, either for library buildings or increased appropriations, have been prepared by the Headquarters office and have been used almost constantly in other communities as suggestions for similar campaigns.

General book publicity. Reading lists issued during the year covered the following subjects:

Home planning.

Useful books for the home.

Business books for profit and pleasure.

The United States.

Books and thrift.

Wanderlust book shelf.

Others are mentioned under Children's reading.

Reading courses were published on Accounting and Journalism. In addition to the distribution which these obtained through libraries a few thousand copies have been distributed directly to persons and agencies where they would receive special attention and where they might be brought to the attention of many others. There has also been a good distribution through libraries and otherwise of the McCutcheon cartoon poster and book mark, reprinted from the *Chicago Tribune*.

Effort has been made to encourage libraries to have a part in every public movement. Nearly every week is now assigned to some cause or some movement, and the publicity which grows out of the observance of these "weeks" and "days" offers librarians ready-made opportunities to stimulate book distribution. In a few cases relations have been established also between the A. L. A. Headquarters and the headquarters of other organizations interested in these movements, in order that books might be given their place in the official program.

Children's reading. Four important contributions to book publicity in this field have been made by the A. L. A. during the year: The *Children's reading exhibit*, *Children's books for Christmas presents*, *Boys' books*, and *Books for vacation* which is in the printer's hands as this report is being written. The 45 sets of the exhibit which were sold and others lent by the A. L. A., have been shown to scores of large groups of people by libraries and library commissions, and the book lists have been distributed in large quantities, so that the first three items mentioned, the exhibit, the Christmas list and the boys' list, may presumably have brought the book idea to the attention of several hundred thousand people. An important fact is that the general reading lists and the children's reading lists are usually reprinted by one or more periodicals, so that the distribution is much

in excess of the number of copies printed by the A. L. A.

Recruiting for librarianship. This is largely publicity work but is reported in another paragraph.

Library publicity. The growing recognition on the part of libraries of the importance of keeping the book idea and the library idea before the public has resulted in the assembling at Headquarters of a considerable amount of material illustrating library and book publicity. This consists of scrapbooks showing how some libraries advertise, of pictures, reports, etc.—all of which are available for loans to libraries.

Newspaper and magazine articles. The time which could be devoted to publicity during the past year has for the most part been given to the development of the reading lists and reading courses and their adequate distribution through libraries and otherwise as stated above. Some dozens of articles have, however, been written at our suggestion for the general magazines, and many newspaper stories have been given to the press associations as well as to individual newspapers. Material for newspaper and magazine articles is being collected and organized at the Headquarters office constantly and is being used by all sorts of reporters and writers. There would be much greater use if we were able to assemble more material.

Photographs and slides. The collection of photographs available for exhibits and for reproduction in newspapers and magazines has now increased to several hundred and many of the best pictures have been reproduced in the form of lantern slides. The slides have been used during the year for lectures to library school students, for public addresses in communities conducting library campaigns, for library development and in other similar ways.

A. L. A. Finances. The increased membership and the increased dues have combined to produce an income for the General Fund somewhat larger than it has been in the past. The conference registration fee required by the new By-Laws should provide \$1500 or \$2000 more. To a large extent the additional funds will be absorbed by the increased expenses of a larger association and larger con-

ferences and by minor increases such as those growing out of the new method of voting, etc.

The Publishing Funds are much increased because of the increased sales of publications. The net gain in this item for 1921 over 1920 was \$7,665.42, or 49%. The gain in the twelve months ending April 30, 1922, over the twelve months ending April 30, 1921, was \$9,056.64, or 50.9%. But the gain does not represent profit. The prices on A. L. A. publications are kept at a figure which is meant to cover overhead, but not to provide a surplus.

The fiscal year of the Association ends on December 31. The Treasurer's annual reports are found each year in the January *Bulletin*. Financial statements are also published in the various numbers of the *Bulletin* throughout the year, and a summary for January 1 to April 30, 1922, is printed at the time of the conference.

In the committee reports this year, and perhaps every year, will be found recommendations which would involve additional expenditures by the committees or by the Headquarters office, frequently by both. Unquestionably many of these recommendations would meet with the approval of members of the Association in general, and, if carried out, would help in the development of librarianship and of libraries. One committee recommends that Headquarters office be instructed to undertake a piece of work which was undertaken several years ago and which failed then as it will fail again unless the Headquarters office can put time and money into that work. Another committee is trying to do on a volunteer basis what would normally cost some \$20,000 a year. And still another committee specifically recommends that the A. L. A. employ an additional Headquarters assistant who shall be a specialist in a given field. The Headquarters office correspondence would disclose the need for similar specialists in other fields as well as many opportunities for service which the Association must now forego because of a lack of adequate resources.

Our Chicago Host. The Association continues to be under obligations to the Chicago Public Library for the Headquarters offices. This courtesy is the more appreciated when it is understood that the Library itself

is in need of space to meet the demands of its rapidly expanding work. The activities of the A. L. A. are growing rapidly also and the necessity for more space is a matter for early consideration.

In General. The year's work of the American Library Association is told in the reports of committees and officers, in the *A. L. A. Bulletin* (including the *Handbook* and *Proceedings*), *The Booklist*, the other A. L. A. publications and in the library periodicals.

Nowhere are all the facts, or even the outstanding facts, assembled. This report reviews simply the work of the Headquarters office with suggestions here and there of the work of others.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to staff, officers, committees and other members whose combined efforts have made this a year of unusual accomplishment.

Respectfully submitted,

CARL H. MILAM, Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS—COSTS AND SALES

Payments for Publications, April 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922

Cost of publications:

A. L. A. Catalog, 1912-1921, editorial expense	\$ 633.00	
A. L. A. List of subject headings, storage on plates.....	36.00	
Binding for libraries (reprinted).....	49.50	
Book wagons, A county library with rural book delivery....	108.78	
Booklist	3,556.67	
Booklist books, 1920.....	434.80	
Booklist books, 1921.....	396.04	
Books for boys and girls (reprinted).....	137.50	
Children's reading exhibit.....	451.71	
A county library (four-page leaflet).....	103.50	
County library exhibit.....	493.96	
Graded list of books for children, editorial expense.....	155.00	
Guide to reference books (reprinted).....	389.85	
McCutcheon bookmark	80.25	
McCutcheon cartoon poster	69.25	
Manual of library economy, chaps. 4, 9, 13 (revised) and 19, including storage on plates.....	840.50	
Mending and repair of books (reprinted).....	92.00	
Plays for children	1,414.18	
Reading lists:		
Books and thrift.....	148.77	
Business books for profit and pleasure.....	205.37	
Children's books for Christmas presents.....	838.55	
Home planning	102.10	
Plays of today	118.01	
The new voter	11.50	
The United States	254.25	
Useful books for the home.....	163.00	
	1,841.55	
Viewpoints in biography.....	505.90	
What is a reasonable income for your library.....	77.50	
Workshops for assembling business facts.....	66.22	
		\$11,933.66

Sales of Publications, April 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922

The Booklist:

Subscriptions	\$9,909.33	
Extra copies	271.44	
		\$10,180.77
Handbook 5, Binding for libraries	221	31.11
Handbook 6, Mending and repair of books.....	1,053	241.96
Handbook 8, How to choose editions.....	80	11.64
Handbook 9, Normal library budget	48	6.74
Handbook 10, Manual for institution libraries.....	11	2.71

Handbook 11, Some principles of business-like conduct in libraries	176	42.63	336.79
Tract 2, How to start a library.....	59	6.06	
Tract 4, Library rooms and buildings.....	146	9.48	
Tract 5, Notes from the art section.....	10	.94	
Tract 10, Why do we need a public library.....	167	11.45	27.93
Foreign lists, French fiction	14	1.32	
Foreign lists, French literature, recent	25	5.63	
Foreign lists, German	7	3.15	
Foreign lists, Polish	6	1.38	
Foreign lists, Russian	7	3.40	
Foreign lists, Swedish	2	.48	15.36
Reprints, Bostwick, Popularizing music through the library..	4	.67	
Reprints, Buying list of books for small libraries, 3rd edition..	1,149	248.55	
Reprints, Certain, Standard library organization and equip- ment for secondary schools of different sizes.....	372	138.87	
Reprints, Inspirational influence of books in the life of children	4	.19	
Reprints, Some present day aspects in library training.....	13	.75	
Reprints, Some recent features in library architecture.....	77	3.92	
Reprints, Making maps available.....	56	3.11	
Reprints, Statistics of libraries, 1917.....	1	.05	396.11
League publications:			
Aids in library work with foreigners.....	33	4.72	
Directions for the librarian of a small library.....	47	6.83	
League Handbook, 1916	9	4.15	15.70
A. L. A. Manual of library economy, chapters as follows:			
1, American library history	97	14.83	
2, Library of Congress.....	43	7.72	
3, The state library	43	7.52	
4, College and university library (revised).....	375	56.36	
5, Proprietary and subscription libraries.....	31	5.39	
6, The free public library.....	48	8.61	
7, The high school library.....	230	34.49	
8, Special libraries	71	12.55	
9, Library legislation (revised).....	362	57.61	
10, The library building (revised).....	198	25.73	
11, Furniture, fixtures and equipment.....	158	22.78	
12, Library administration	147	18.26	
13, Training for librarianship (revised).....	1,016	142.21	
14, Library service	74	11.23	
16, Book selection	225	23.62	
17, Order and accession department.....	283	30.59	
18, Classification	259	31.65	
19, The catalog	984	131.12	
20, Shelf department	182	22.69	
21, Loan work	232	25.86	
23, Government documents	124	18.62	
24, Bibliography	224	26.71	
25, Pamphlets and minor library material.....	230	32.96	
27, Commissions, state aid, etc.....	34	5.88	
30, Library work with the blind.....	48	8.34	783.33
Reading lists:			
Books and thrift	11,239	269.96	
Business books for profit and pleasure.....	9,111	218.40	
Children's books for Christmas presents.....	56,320	1,367.10	
Home planning	1,560	29.30	
Plays of today	997	108.26	
The new voter	1,402	17.70	
The United States	6,476	377.79	
Useful books for the home.....	12,729	226.70	2,615.21
A. L. A. Bookbinding Committee:			
Lettering on library books.....	89	8.61	8.61
A. L. A. Catalog, 1904-11.....	134	227.53	
A. L. A. Index to general literature.....	27	150.60	

A. L. A. Index to general literature, supplement.....	28	104.40
An apprentice course for small libraries.....	182	176.65
Book wagons, A county library with rural book delivery..	1,670	135.01
Booklist books, 1920.....	1,021	315.03
Booklist books, 1921	2,094	410.09
Books for boys and girls.....	324	76.18
Catalog rules	582	534.76
Cataloging for small libraries.....	278	522.20
Children's reading exhibit	sets 49	490.00
Collection of social survey material.....	36	5.28
County library, four-page leaflet.....	8,610	204.93
County library exhibit	sets 25	450.00
Guide to reference books.....	608	1,680.70
High school list	108	52.48
Hints to small libraries.....	33	24.49
Hospital list	22	6.49
Index to kindergarten songs.....	25	41.68
Index to library reports.....	5	4.80
Library buildings	6	.75
Library efficiency test.....	98	23.89
List of economical editions.....	8	1.15
List of music and books about music.....	26	8.51
List of subject headings	542	1,987.80
List of 550 children's books.....	67	9.90
McCutcheon bookmark	23,871	103.10
McCutcheon cartoon poster	3,110	193.33
Periodicals for the small library.....	342	78.56
Plays for children	533	745.95
Scientific management, List of books on.....	9	.85
Shakespeare, Brief guide to the literature of.....	25	11.55
Special indexes in American libraries.....	18	1.73
Subject headings for catalogs of juvenile books.....	56	91.06
Subject index to A. L. A. Booklist, vols. 1-6.....	13	3.23
Subject index to A. L. A. Booklist, vol. 7.....	32	3.03
Viewpoints in biography.....	747	419.26
Viewpoints in essays (advance orders).....	6	3.60
Viewpoints in travel	228	123.69
What is a reasonable income for your library.....	8,825	50.75
Workshops for assembling business facts.....	289	54.33
A. L. A. Bulletin and Proceedings.....	171	74.50
		9,603.82
		\$23,983.63

NECROLOGY (REPORT BY THE SECRETARY)

During the past year the Association has lost by death twenty-six of its members. The list follows. Brief biographical notes will appear in the *Handbook* of the Association for the current year:

Edward B. Adams, librarian Harvard Law Library, Cambridge, Mass., died March 24, 1922.

James L. Autry, trustee Public Library, Houston, Texas, died Sept. 28, 1920.

Dr. Ida Clarke, president Board of Trustees Public Library, Youngstown, Ohio, died March 2, 1922.

Joseph F. Daniels, librarian Public Library, Riverside, Calif., died September 17, 1921.

Elizabeth B. Faucon, custodian Reading Room Pratt Institute Free Library, Brooklyn, N. Y., died September 15, 1921.

Walter Greenwood Forsyth, custodian Barton-Ticknor Department, Public Library, Boston, Mass., died December 27, 1921.

Grace E. Inman, 135 Parade Street, Providence, R. I., died December 29, 1921.

Dr. Frank S. Johnson, chairman Book Committee, John Crerar Library, Chicago, Illinois, died April 23, 1922.

John W. Jordan, librarian Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., died June 12, 1921.

Mrs. Thomas L. Montgomery, Harrisburg, Pa., died Oct. 16, 1921.

John Grant Moulton, librarian Public Library, Haverhill, Mass., died July 8, 1921.

Benonine Muse, assistant reference librarian University of Texas Library, Austin, Tex., died July 9, 1921.

Eunice Rockwood Oberly, librarian Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., died November 5, 1921.

Tomo-Saburo Sano, chief librarian Public Library, Yamaguchi, Japan, died May 13, 1920.

Mrs. Harriot H. (Pliny T.) Sexton, Palmyra, N. Y., died November 22, 1921.

May Seymour, editor of *Decimal Classification*, Lake Placid Club, N. Y., died June 14, 1921.

Lindsay Swift, editor library publications, Public Library, Boston, Mass., died September 11, 1921.

Hamilton B. Tompkins, director and member of Book Committee, Redwood Library, Newport, R. I., died December 23, 1921.

The following persons had formerly belonged to the Association, although not members at the time of their death:

William M. Bains, bookseller, 1213-15 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa., died December 19, 1921.

John Vance Cheney, former librarian The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, died May 1, 1922.

Lucinda McAlpine, former librarian, Public Library, Newton, Kansas, died January 31, 1921.

Mrs. Helen J. McCaine, Public Library, St. Paul, Minn., died March 30, 1922.

G. B. Meleney, 1047 First National Bank Bldg., Chicago, Ill., died March 5, 1922.

W. P. Payne, formerly president Board of Trustees, Public Library, Nevada, Iowa, died October 21, 1921.

Charles Delamater Vail, librarian Hobart College Library, Geneva, N. Y., died July 25, 1921.

Edward Harmon Virgin, former librarian General Theological Seminary Library, New York City, died Nov. 14, 1920.

Nina T. Waddell, La Jolla, Calif., died June 22, 1921.

The above list was prepared by Mrs. Henry J. Carr.

LIBRARY WORK FOR EX-SERVICE MEN IN HOSPITALS 1921-22

In the conduct of any work especially work of an administrative nature which is done under pressure it is well to pause from time to time to study the situation to see how far one has travelled along the road and the direction in which one is moving, for the important question is not where we are but where we are going. For librarians the A.L.A. meeting is the time to bring to light the results of this introspective study and if one be honest in the report made of it, the results should be of value to one's co-workers.

In order to listen understandingly to such an introspective study it should be borne in mind that it is like a piece of tapestry, that if at one moment it is the picture, somewhat idealized by distance, that challenges attention, the next moment it is the knotted side with threads cut in unexpected places, or apparently unrelated colors brought together, which is shown. Both sides are important, the idealized picture must be borne in mind in order to give direction to the work to be done to make it possible to pick up intelligibly the thousand unrelated threads of varying color and texture and so make the dream a reality.

In reviewing the year's work (for ex-service men in government hospitals) there are six events which stand out in a striking manner.

1. The most striking event, and doubtless the outstanding fact in the development of hospital library service during the year was the Congressional appropriation of \$100,000.00 for books, magazines and newspapers for ex-service men in hospitals which became available on July 1, 1921.

2. The transfer of the work conducted by the American Library Association with the entire personnel of 32 people, which was made July 1 to the Public Health Service thus assuring that the expenditure of these funds would be in the hands of librarians who were familiar with the work in hospitals, the work done and the ideals sought.

3. The establishment of the work under civil service. On October 1 the Civil Service Commission gave certified status to all librarians and assistants who were in the

employ of the American Library Association when the work was transferred. This made it possible to continue the work without a break.

4. The recognition of the Surgeon General and the doctors associated with him of the need for at least one professionally trained and experienced librarian in each hospital of 300 beds.

5. The gradual recognition by doctors in hospitals that the medical libraries would be of more value handled by a professionally trained librarian and the realization that the libraries for the medical staff and patients would be administered under one head—the librarian.

6. The transfer of the library work with the other hospital work for veterans from the Public Health Service to the Veterans' Bureau on May 1, 1922.

In the events leading up to the transfer of hospital work from the A.L.A. to the government and the conduct of the work during the year it is no exaggeration to say that it was possible only because of Assistant Surgeon General Lavinder's far seeing vision and his sympathetic understanding of the task to be undertaken. It was his vision of the possibilities of this work and its need in hospitals that convinced the secretary of the Treasury that the expenditure of funds for such an undertaking was advisable when all expenditures were being cut, and it was his understanding and appreciation of the difficulties that lay in the path of anyone who undertook the establishment of new work under the government that gave courage to the workers who had the task in hand.

Dr. Lavinder's vision made the work possible but he was ably backed by the understanding on the part of the A.L.A. Executive Board of the difficulties connected with this work for ex-service men. The spirit of forgetfulness was abroad in the land, there was a temptation to forget the war and all that pertained to it. It might have been the story of Tommy Atkins had it not been for Mr. Meyer's committee and the Executive Board who realized that though the government had assumed the responsibility for the major portion of the work there was no reason for the A.L.A. to cease its interest,

and during the year Mr. Meyer has given of his time and thought in furthering this work. In addition to Mr. Meyer there have been other librarians scattered over the country who had served in army and navy hospitals during the war who continued their allegiance to the work. Miss Ideson of Houston, an overseas service woman, has not only expressed her interest in the work but has made real sacrifices involving the loaning of members of her staff to tide over emergencies arising in the Veterans' Hospital in Houston. Miss Mulheron has personally overseen the organization of the work in the Veterans' Hospital in Portland and other librarians too numerous to mention scattered over the country have loaned members of their staffs, supplied books on emergency call and have given the sort of service that has indicated their continued interest. (This means that so long as there is library work carried on for ex-service men the A.L.A. will fulfill its obligation.)

The most serious concern of those whose responsibility it has been to carry forward the work has been the ever difficult one of properly qualified personnel—for no matter what the vision of the leaders is—nor how great the sums of money allotted for the work, if there are not the people in the field with these same ideals and aspirations the work must fail—and this is not only the concern of those who are interested in veterans' hospitals but of all those who have the development of hospital library service at heart.

During the war there were literally hundreds clamoring to get into this branch of the service but again it is the case of "Tommy step aside" now that the guns have "ceased to shoot." Perhaps those who have the training of workers for the profession have failed to see the possibilities for service here. To be sure in the veterans' hospitals and many of the largest city hospitals there have been "outs" with this work, the same "outs" which usually accompany a government position and the establishment of any new work in a highly organized institution such as a hospital. In contrast to this there has been such a chance for varied service as seldom comes to the average librarian. It is a service calling for the best library training plus a varied

experience and good personality. Louise Singley, a library supervisor in Public Health Service now Veterans' Bureau, writes:

I am constantly being more and more impressed with the necessity of keeping this service in hospitals in the hands of fully trained and experienced librarians at all hazards. With ten years previous experience in the Pittsburgh Library as supervisor of an extension division, and at the same time instructor in the library school conducted by that library, plus three years service in army and navy hospital libraries during the war period, I am more and more impressed with the fact that this type of work requires more than any other fully trained and well equipped librarians in order to meet the emergencies that arise each day. At a glance, almost, the librarian must know how and what to suggest to the often mentally as well as physically ill person. She must therefore have her books and her tools, and her knowledge of sources at her fingers' ends in order to successfully aid these patients to a normal condition, for that indeed is her chief reason for existing in the hospital.

It seems hard to reconcile such a statement as this with the feeling expressed by the head of one of the largest public libraries in the country, "There is no opportunity for professional development in hospital library work"; and in the statement of the head of one of the library schools who wrote that she was glad that one of her "nice girls had resigned from a veterans' hospital for the conditions under which she was working were so hard." And another head of a library school who advised one of her girls not to take up this work for there was "so little opportunity for self culture." Again there was one who constantly offered public library positions to a hospital librarian who was carrying on unusually successful work with patients in a mental hospital, because she felt that the greater professional opportunity lay in public library work. Fortunately library schools are not all given over to training "nice girls" who are going to resign when working conditions are hard nor do all the leaders in these schools advocate self culture or professional advancement as the end to be desired.

It was from the library schools that the majority of hospital library positions were filled during the war but the tendency in the schools, as everywhere, has been to settle back into pre-war grooves with the emphasis

placed on training for public library work. It is for those of us who are interested in hospitals to show the schools that in hospital service lies a field for special training where the emphasis must be put upon therapeutic value of books. We hear a great deal of talk about mental food but has there ever been a scientific study of books from this angle?

It is hard to compare the various types of library work from the point of view of the individual for it is hard to know what each person counts as worth while, and it is hard to learn the underlying motives governing the choice made for one rather than another line of work for "some may be working for money and some may be working for fame." But there would seem to be much real satisfaction from realizing that one had kept a boy from life in a mental hospital as one boy testified the "book cart" had done for him. To a book lover I can imagine no greater joy than in introducing a tuberculosis patient to Stevenson and Dr. Trudeau.

The majority of those who are in hospitals testify to the satisfaction in the service, and when one thinks of the work in veterans' hospitals with nearly a half million books circulated, it is not the numbers which are inspiring but the quality of the service which can compare favorably with library service anywhere. Take for instance Ft. Bayard, a tuberculosis hospital of 1,000 beds. Here the librarian finds one man who starts out with the modest request to read books of "some of the old fellows who have some style and who can really write," and finds that he is requesting later such things as Butler's *Way of all flesh*, Swift's *Tale of a tub*, and *Battle of books*,—Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus*, to study real satire; from that he branches off to poetry—"just lots of it, please,"—and reads all the best we have, Shakespeare, Keats, Dryden, Scott, Kipling, etc., along with critical studies of English composition, poetic construction, and short story writing, to help him in his literary attempts.

Another is interested in all the various expeditions. This involves sending away to museums and institutions conducting these enterprises for contemporary information.

Next we come upon the man who requests

"lots on forestry" as he also intends this as his vocation out here, after he "escapes from Uncle Sam's sanatorium." After exhausting the hospital's limited supply, the university, state and city libraries in the vicinity have very generously helped with short loans of material that has not yet found a way to the hospital library.

Repeatedly comes the request for chess manuals and game manuals of various kinds to help "beat the other fellow." Again, the baseball fans, in heated arguments, ask for *Sporting News*. This is supplied by the generosity of the president of the American League for Professional Baseball; the editor of the *Sporting News*, and his wife, send numbers of copies of the paper and the annual *Record Book*.

Truly the librarians find with Cowper, that "books are not seldom talismans and spells," and that they help as nothing else can to show the patient—who may spend months and even years in bed—a very definite "way out." They can help in the cure as nothing else can do, swing the pendulum from the tendency to constant consideration of the physical condition of life to the much more important condition—the mental attitude that is brought to bear on this very troublesome and many times very serious physical condition. A refreshed mind can much more successfully meet the repeated pain or hemorrhage than one worn and tired with the dread of thinking of the next attack. Hence the distinct therapeutic value of the lightest fiction, plus the other more worth while things in their curative power.

As one man unconsciously expressed it, he "in desperation" began to read Stevenson's stories to "see how one T.B. who really had it badly managed to get away with it."

And so cases could be cited endlessly to prove that the hospital is no place for the mechanics of library work. It is the knowledge of books plus the knowledge of human nature that spells success in this work. It is no place for people trained only for the comfortable places—the well worn roads—it is for those who can interpret their training-knowledge and experience in terms of service.

CAROLINE WEBSTER,

In charge of hospital work.

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

The plans of my predecessor, Dr. Carlton, for the organization of the Library are described by him in an article in the *Library Journal*, October 15, 1921, entitled, "The American Library in Paris, Inc." The history of the Library during the year 1921 is contained in the *Year-book* of the Library just published.

The immediate problems of the Library are:

(1) The establishment of closer relations with other organizations interested in international service, particularly the Carnegie endowment for international peace, and the Comité France-Amérique, both of which are especially concerned with a closer rapprochement between France and the United States, and also the establishment of closer relations with the University of Paris, the American University Union, and other institutions and societies interested in American thought and in American achievement. The most important action taken by any organization having international affiliations was the passage of a resolution by the Paris Post of the American Legion, recommending recognition of the Library by the general organization.

(2) The organization of national committees to advise and assist in the development of the Library. With this in view, the Trustees at their meeting, December 13 last, passed an amendment to the constitution providing for the appointment of an advisory committee, to be chosen from among the most distinguished French men of letters, statesmen and publicists, an American committee, empowered to solicit endowments, donations and additions to the list of patrons and life members, and a British committee with similar powers.

(3) The establishment of closer relations with other libraries in Paris. The aim of the Library is to supplement rather than duplicate other libraries in the community, and to transfer to them any material which may be of greater use as parts of their collections.

(4) Establishment of such departments of service in the Library and of such branches of the Library in other parts of the city as will enable it to secure the largest circulation of its book collections and at the same time

carry on its research work effectively and economically.

Additional Resources and Publicity

The most important addition to the financial resources of the Library during the year was the gift of \$25,000 from the American Library Association to be added to the endowment fund. The largest and most important contributions to the book collections were received from the Confederate Southern Memorial Association, from the University of California, and from the Aero Club of America Foreign Service committee. The first consisted of Southern history and literature, the second included a complete set of the University's semi-centennial publications, and the third a carefully chosen library on aeronautics.

Beginning January 23, the director has undertaken the editorial management of a weekly book column in the *Chicago Tribune*, European edition, and beginning April 3, weekly contributions to the *New York Herald*, European edition, relating to the literature of subjects of current interest. Periodical notes on the contents of the current English reviews have been sent to the *Daily Mail*, Continental edition.

Because of the inadequacy of the collections, the limited staff, and the crowded conditions of the Library rooms, there has been no special publicity either among British or French readers.

Use of the Library

There are now 3075 registered card holders. Of these, 44 per cent are American, 25 per cent British, and 22 per cent French. In the use of the reference room also Americans lead, the French here coming second, and the English third. The exact figures are Americans 36 per cent, French 33 per cent, British 18 per cent. The most interesting thing about these figures is that Americans do not form a majority, and that compared with last year's figures they show an increase in the number of French card holders greater than that of either Americans or British.

With the small staff it has been possible to do little research work, except as generous individuals have been found to do it for us. Still some service of importance has been

rendered both to libraries, to government bureaus, to institutions and to societies, as well as to individual inquirers.

International Service

Important as this local service is, and important as the service may become, particularly to the people of France, a much more important service may be rendered by assisting in building up American collections in French and other libraries in Europe, and by building up French collections in American libraries. With this in view, some studies have been made of the subject of international exchange of scientific publications and of library duplicates of value in University and other reference libraries, and the assistance of the officers of the *Cercle de la Librairie* and the *Maison du Livre*, has been sought in working out a plan for the selection of current French publications most suitable for purchase by American public libraries.

Books have been loaned to other libraries in different parts of Europe. The most noteworthy among these was a collection of contemporary American poetry which made possible a course in contemporary American poetry in the University of Strasbourg.

Information has also been given to inquirers both European and American in regard to the publishers of individual books and the literature of specific subjects.

It is, however, out of the question for the library to supply either the books or the information which it should until both its book collections and its staff are much enlarged.

Members of the American Library Association can probably do more than any one else to supply the need for books and magazines,—particularly sets in bound form.

A Library School

More important even than its direct service to readers, either in France or other countries is its potential service to other libraries. The director has been elected a member of the *Association des Bibliothécaires français*, and expects to publish in its *Bulletin* an annual list of American library literature. He expects also to have exhibits of this literature, and of photographs and other material illustrative of American library methods.

The Comité Français de la Bibliothèque

Moderne, organized largely through the efforts of Miss Carson and members of the American Committee for Devastated France, plan the establishment of training courses for those looking forward to work in the newer type of public library in which the members

of the Comité are interested. It is their hope that with the assistance of the leaders in this progressive movement these courses may be given in the American Library.

W. DAWSON JOHNSTON, Director,
American Library in Paris, Inc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, 1921-22

BOOKBINDING

The activities of the A. L. A. Committee on Bookbinding for the year 1921-22 have consisted in part in the continuation of work included in the programs of previous years, with some new undertakings which have been developed in response to recognized needs in the course of our regular work.

The bookbinding exhibits have been used with apparently no lessening of interest, in ten library schools, summer schools and library institutes, in two state meetings, five public and three high school libraries, at the N. E. A. in Des Moines, and at the Iowa State Fair in connection with the exhibit of the Iowa Library Commission, twenty-two places in all.

In response to inquiries from several of the smaller publishers, the binding specifications for strong edition work, intended for the larger books of the reference type, which were prepared some years ago by the Bookbinding Committee, have been revised, the revision being included in this report. The co-operation of ten or more practical library binders of high standing and of supervisors of binding in large libraries in the preparation of details, has resulted in a set of workable specifications which are being brought to the attention of publishers in general through the National Association of Book Publishers. The cordial co-operation of former chairmen of the Bookbinding Committee in this work is gratefully acknowledged.

As the result of an apparent need, a set of general instructions for library binders has been compiled, covering many details of preparation for binding which some binders overlook, but which are important from the library standpoint. These were submitted to the same binders and supervisors as were the specifications for strong edition work, re-

ferred to above, and were approved in the main by all.

The question of inferior paper and bindings in the books of recent years is calling protests from various quarters. Complaints have been sent to several publishers concerning the conspicuous defects in certain books, the replies being varied in character and rather unsatisfactory. The Bookbinding Committee in co-operation with the Bookbuying Committee is taking the matter up in a more comprehensive way, with a view to securing the sentiment of a large number of librarians with specific examples of books whose lack of durability has attracted attention. With these specific examples as the basis of our appeal, it is planned to approach the publishers through the Secretary of the National Association of Book Publishers in the interest of improved durability in forthcoming books.

It must be recognized that, although the library trade may be a comparatively small item in book sales, libraries do introduce to large numbers of people and thus popularize the best books published, thereby indirectly increasing the sales through the regular book agencies to an incalculable extent. And we are confident that the publishers, knowing something of the value of the library trade, will give due consideration to our appeal for more serviceable books.

The rapid introduction of the oversewing machine into library binderies indicates its general acceptance as a necessary part of up-to-date binding equipment, notwithstanding its expense, which with the scoring machine (an indispensable adjunct which insures a flat opening for books made from the heavier papers) is a little more than \$4,000.

The prices of binding supplies and the binders' wage scales show a considerable reduction as compared with those of sixteen